



Tupelo Times

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2011 VOL. 7, NO. 3

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center**

Enchanting Forests

It was a cool, early summer morning and my group of third graders was assembled for the guided walk. The students stared down the path that led into the woods. The thick haze rising between the trunks made it difficult to see and left the picture of what awaited them up to the imagination. One child (keeping one eye on the forest and one on me) nervously asked, "Are there animals in there?"

By "animals," he meant ferocious or cunning ones or even worse yet - monsters. To him, the forest was a dangerous place, where the wolf waited for Little Red Riding Hood and where the Wicked Witch of the West's flying monkeys lingered in Oz. This child's "forest" was one from Grimm's fairy tales, where menaces awaited or where sinister enchantments took place. Hansel and Gretel strolled into it, Goldilocks wandered in (and ran out!) and Sleeping Beauty was entombed by it. The deep dark forest represents the element of fear in many of these childhood tales. It's where monsters live and is a common backdrop for children's nightmares. Yet, it's where adventure can be found.

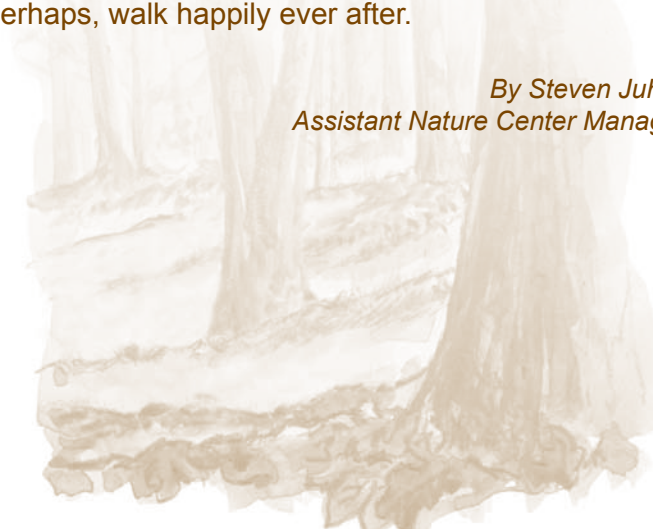
The forest can be a picture of mysterious refuge and adventure, such as in J.R.R. Tolkien's Mirkwood and Fanghorn Forest. It's where friendly dwarves welcome Snow White and where the valiant Robin Hood lives. It's where one can even find that kind, green ogre, Shrek!

In our childhood stories and folktales, the unfamiliar is often depicted as a forest. However if the forest is unfamiliar to us, we ought to get to know it better. A forest is full of wonder, of intriguing plants

and fascinating animals, of diversity and complex relationships, of beauty and of serenity. It's also full of drama, of undaunted survival and of thrilling risk at the level of every forest inhabitant.

Delve into the forest that awaits you. Take the hand of another or journey in alone. Turn over logs, peer into the canopy, take in the aromas of leaves and soil and listen for the call of a bird or the scamper of feet. Our forests are full of adventure, refuge, enchantment, and, yes, even danger. Visit the Conservation Department for maps and trails to explore or attend a program that gets you into the woods. Attend one of the guided trail walks June 18 or July 23 at the nature center. Walk along the nature center's trail anytime during June and July to read the posted trail-side story, "Fox in the Forest." However you choose to discover (or rediscover) the forest, you may be rewarded with a childlike sense of wonder and enjoyment and, perhaps, walk happily ever after.

By Steven Juhlin
Assistant Nature Center Manager



Come to the Fair!
Visit the Conservation Department's building at the SEMO District Fair, see live snakes and fish and celebrate the "Year of the Forests"



corner volunteer



A Natural Community

Take a walk in the woods, observing closely, and you'll soon discover how much diversity there really is; different plants, different trees, different bird songs and so on. In order for a forest to function, there must be diversity. Each part of the community has its own niche and serves a special purpose. The same can be said for the community of staff and volunteers at the nature center.

There are volunteers like Michael Fiehler, Kelly Hughes and Liana Jenkins who are active in leading programs and those such as Jeanie Haertling, Omayra Hayward, Kenny Schiwitz and Pat Wells behind the scenes preparing everything just right. People such as Brenda Groh, Donna Magwitz and Beverly Schiwitz serve as the "face" of the nature center, greeting visitors and providing excellent customer service. Our Naturescaping Team involves Jennifer Behnken, Carolyn Huter, Vicki Roberts and Byron Foust to keep the outdoor exhibit gardens looking great while Joan Anderson and Charlie Wilson create new indoor exhibits. Fred Bollinger, Phil Dodson and Ken Jones are among those involved with wildlife monitoring projects and Jane Nicholas and Will Rogers are part of the team who care for the animals inside.

There are many people who volunteer filling specific roles at the nature center and bringing diversity to all that we do. Like our forests, this is a remarkable community that we continue to discover, rely upon and appreciate.



Volunteer Milestones

100 Hours-Byron Foust
Jeanie Haertling
200 Hours-Jane Nicholas
300 Hours-Mary Jane Fieser
500 Hours-Michael Fiehler
1000 Hours-Judy Burford
Kenny Schiwitz
1250 Hours-Phil Dodson
Pat Wells
1500 Hours-Fred Bollinger
Sue Corvick
2500 Hours-Joan Anderson



Educators' Niche

Please come in and visit the Educator Resource Area. We have a variety of education materials that are free to any Missouri educator.

Educator Workshops

Insect Emporium Educator Workshop

Insects have a reputation for being creepy, crawly, scary creatures. We'll illuminate some unique characteristics that make these animals interesting and include information on identification, habitats and dilemmas facing insects. Participants will learn how to incorporate this information into their existing curricula. This workshop will be held at the nature center, June 28th-30th. Graduate Credit is available from SEMO.

Missouri's Underwater Treasures Educator Workshop

Everyone is familiar with fish, but did you know there are other fascinating creatures that live in Missouri's streams and rivers? Join us for a look at Missouri's interesting aquatic life including crayfish, mussels and aquatic macro-invertebrates. This workshop will be held at the Missouri Department of Conservation's Southeast Regional Office in Cape Girardeau, July 12th & 13th. Graduate Credit is available from SEMO.

Build a Field Kit Educator Workshop

Become more knowledgeable about taking students in outdoor settings and build your own field kit. Field activities are correlated to the GLEs & CLEs and will provide experiences in teaching lessons that take students outdoors. Bring a tub or box and we will fill it with items to make your field exploration more successful. This workshop will be held at the nature center, July 21st & 22nd. Graduate Credit is available from SEMO.

Discover Nature Schools

If you teach grades 4-12, we have new resources for you. The Discover Nature Schools program provides fabulous curriculum, along with grant monies for field trips and supplies. The Nature Unleashed unit is aligned with 4th grade GLEs and comes with a great teacher's guide and wonderful student guides. Lessons are designed to get students out-of-doors while teaching them about Missouri ecosystems and preparing them for the MAP test. The Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems unit is designed for 6th grade GLEs, but can be used for 7th & 8th grade students as well. This unit features water and aquatic ecosystems and comes with a teacher's guide and full color student books. New this year is Nature Unbound, the high school unit. Trainings for these units will be held at the Nature Center August 6th & 13th.

For more information or to register, contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218 or bridget.jackson@mdc.mo.gov

JUNE

Missouri Wildflowers

This revised, sixth edition has a new look. Dennison's classic now has larger pages, type and pictures for improved readability. Colored tabs have been added for easier location of flower color groups. The taxonomy has been updated in accordance with the most current naming conventions.



Discounted price:
\$11.20 plus tax

The Nature Shop

20% Off

*Special monthly discounts ...
 (Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)*

The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

JULY/AUGUST

Missouri Natural Areas Guide

A Guide to 50 Great Places

Now, a great new book helps nature lovers experience these special places firsthand. In this beautiful, user-friendly guide, author Mike Leahy, the Department's natural areas coordinator, provides natural history information that brings to life the outstanding geological, biological and ecological features of 50 areas. Easy-to-use maps and stunning photographs compliment the text.



Discounted price:
\$7.20 plus tax

Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and is closed Sundays and Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape



August Events

Please call the nature center at 573/290-5218 on or after **August 2** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.



6 Canoeing Basics Saturday, 9-11am

If you're thinking about taking the kids out canoeing but you're not sure how, this is the class for you. We'll learn the basics so that you and your family can enjoy this fun outdoor activity together. **Discover Nature - Families** programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together. Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

Early registration begins July 15



6 "Adults Only" Canoeing Basics Saturday, Noon-2pm

Canoeing is a great outdoor activity and Missouri has a lot to offer canoeing enthusiasts. Learn some basic skills before you venture onto Missouri's beautiful streams. Practice simple strokes and techniques on our pond that may keep you afloat the next time you canoe on your own. Ages 18 and up. Registration required.

Early registration begins July 15

6 Discovery Station Missouri's Forest Products Saturday, 1-4pm

Missouri was a leader in lumber production at the turn of the century when the Ozarks' pine forests were being logged. Discover how forest protection and management continues to make Missouri a leader in a wide variety of forest products. All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.

RACERS

Amidon Clean-Up Saturday, August 6 9am-2pm

Help one of Missouri's natural areas by cleaning up the trash at Amidon Conservation Area. We'll spend the morning walking the trail and picking up trash, then cool off in the afternoon with a swim. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12 - 17. Registration required.

Early registration begins July 15



11 Nature Center at Night Forest Hike Thursday, 5-8pm

Ever wonder what it's like walking through the forest at night? We'll venture on our paved trail and talk about wildlife that prowls our forest nocturnally. All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.



snappers

Compass Treasure Hunt Saturday, August 13 10-11:30am

Learn the basics of using a compass and test your new skills by going on a treasure hunt! **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. Registration required.



Mudpuppies

Busy Bees Saturday, August 13 9am, 11am or 1pm Tuesday, August 16 9am or 11am

Buzz by the nature center this month and explore the world of bees! You'll have a honey of a good time as you discover how bees work together to take care of the hive. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. Registration required.



18 Nature Art Macro Photography Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Have you ever wanted to save those beautiful summer blooms forever? Now you can through the magic of macro photography. Bring any digital camera (required) to the nature center, along with a macro lens (optional) and learn the fun of macro photography. Ages 16 and up. Registration required.

20 Hummingbird Celebration Saturday, 8am-4pm

Join us as we celebrate the peak migratory season of the fascinating ruby-throated hummingbird. Check out our master banders at work as they band these ruby gems starting at 8 am. Information stations and seminars will provide tips on attracting hummingbirds, gardening, feeder care and much more. Kids can check out our fledgling fun corner too. All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.

20 Conservation Trails Millstream Gardens CA Saturday, 8:30am-4:30pm

The Millstream Gardens trail hike offers a walk along the rushing river where kayakers brave the rapids in early spring. Wildflowers and busy songbirds may be sighted as the trail takes us through forest land and near shut-ins, to connect us with the Turkey Creek trail leading to the Silver Mines campground. This trail rated easy. Ages 8 and up. Registration required.

26/27 Hunter Education Friday, 5:30-9:30pm & Saturday, 8am-4pm

This 10-hour hunter education certification course is required for anyone born January 1, 1967, or after, who wants to hunt with a firearm in Missouri. Students must be 11 years of age at the start of the class. This course begins on Friday evening and continues on Saturday from 8 am until 4 pm. You must attend both sessions and pass a test to receive certification. All students 15 and under must bring proof of age and those 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Bring any previously purchased permits with you to class. **You must pre-register for this course online at www.mdc.mo.gov. For more information, call 573-290-5730.**

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

7/8 Senior Explorer Days Wednesday, 9-11am or 2-4pm Thursday, 9-11am or 2-4pm

Make your way to the nature center for a day of exploration with other seniors! Learn about some of the animals and plants that call southeast Missouri home, make some nature inspired art, and have some good old-fashioned fun! Ages 55 and up. Registration required.

Early registration begins August 16

24 Connecting People with the Land Saturday, 9am-4pm

Join us for a day set aside to recognize National Archaeology Month and celebrate National Hunting & Fishing Day. Participants will learn about the conservation and preservation of the rich cultural and natural resources of the area through hands-on activities and demonstrations. Fishing, archery, cordage making, woodcarving and archaeology identification are just a few of the activities you can observe or try. Spend the day or a few hours while learning how the past connects us to the future. All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome. No registration required.

Monthly Temporary Display

June

Visit the nature center gallery in June to view a collection of photography by Paul Cummins entitled "For the Love of Nature."

July

The nature center staff and volunteers share their passion for the outdoors and conservation with an exhibit of artwork and photographs entitled "Through Our Eyes."

August

Visit the nature center's gallery in August to view "Lasting Impressions" by Julie Bricknell.



River Cooter
Pseudemys concinna concinna

Adult cooters range in upper shell length from 9 to 13 inches.

Habitat and conservation:

During the spring and summer, cooters spend a considerable amount of time basking in the sun on logs. The cooter is most abundant in Missouri's rivers and sloughs, but has also taken up residence in some of our state's large reservoirs.

Foods:

Aquatic plants make up the bulk of their diet, but some aquatic insects, snails and crayfish are occasionally eaten.

Distribution in Missouri:

Presumed to occur throughout the southern half of the state.

Help Turtles Thrive in Our State

- Don't collect turtles for pets. Wild animals deserve a natural life, and keeping them as pets can distress them to death.
- Don't shoot turtles for "fun." It's illegal, and it pressures an already stressed group of animals.
- Report turtle poachers to Operation Game Thief.
- Be careful when you drive, especially in spring and summer when turtles are mating, nesting and dispersing.
- Create habitat areas around your home or farm. These include wooded and marshy areas.



Grasshoppers
Order Orthoptera

(photos by Scott Kelley)

Grasshoppers and crickets have long, powerfully muscled hind legs that they use for jumping, large, flat-sided heads with big compound eyes and large chewing mouthparts. Grasshopper and cricket males are known for their musical sounds made when they rub together roughened portions of their wings or legs. Grasshoppers have many predators, which include birds, toads, frogs, raccoons, opossums, turtles, bats, praying mantids, red fox, dragonflies, yellow jackets, fish, shrews, lizards, chipmunks, squirrels, spiders, centipedes, crickets, beetles and the neighborhood cat. The larvae of the Blister Beetles use the eggs of grasshoppers as their primary food source.

Just Ask...

Q. What should I do if I find a newborn fawn all by itself?

A. We frequently get calls from people who report they have found a fawn that appears to have been abandoned by its mother. Usually, this is not the case. Female deer will leave their fawns bedded down in a secluded, safe area as they leave to feed. The fawns will lay very still relying on their spots to camouflage them until their mother returns. This gives the appearance that the fawn has been abandoned, but the doe does not travel far from the fawn and will usually visit the fawn 5-6 times a day. If you find a fawn like this, the best thing to do is leave it alone.

Q. How does a flying squirrel fly?

A. Actually, flying squirrels don't really fly, they glide. They have a flap of skin called a patagium that extends between their front and back legs. These skin flaps act as a sail or parachute when the squirrel stretches out its legs to glide. It can turn or change the angle of its descent by moving its legs and twisting its body. As it approaches a tree, it lifts its front legs and drops its tail to slow down before landing on the tree with all four legs. Flying squirrels have been known to glide 80 yards or more!

THIS and THAT

THIS and THAT

THIS and THAT

THIS and THAT



June Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **June 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

4 Conservation Stewards Saturday, 8am-Noon

Prepare to get dirty as we spend the morning freeing the nature center of some unwanted invasive species and litter. We will learn what makes a plant invasive and get some hands-on experience at habitat restoration. **Ages 8 and up. Youth and adult groups welcome.** Registration required.

Early registration begins May 17

4 Conservation Trails Trail of Tears State Park Saturday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Join us for a rewarding hike and the opportunity to stand on 600 ft. high Mississippi River bluffs with spectacular views of the river and the Illinois floodplain. We will explore the newly restored Sheppard Point and Visitor Center trails, which feature dramatic topographical relief. This hike is rated difficult. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

Early registration begins May 17

4 Discovery Station Riparian Woodlands Saturday, 1-4pm

Learn what riparian woodlands are and discover what you can do to create a better riparian zone on your property. See a stream table in action as we demonstrate the importance of managing our Missouri waterways. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

4 Meet the Artist Paul Cummins Saturday, 2-4pm

You're invited to meet photographer Paul Cummins. Paul loves and appreciates the preservation of history and nature as he sees and records it through the lens of a camera. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

9 Nature Center at Night Fireflies Thursday, 5-8pm



During warm summer nights, nature provides us with one of the most spectacular fireworks displays. The creator of this lightshow is the tiny firefly. Such an amazing little insect should not go unnoticed; join us as we uncover the mysteries of the lightning bug. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

10/11 Camping 101 Friday and Saturday 5pm-10am

Do you want to go camping with your family but don't know where to start? Join us for a campout where you'll learn about tools and tips to make your first-time camping experience a breeze. **Discover Nature - Families** programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together. **Ages 6 and up. Registration required.**



10/18 4-H Entomology Class Friday, June 10, 6-9pm Saturday, June 18, 8am-Noon

This workshop is for 4-H students wanting to learn insect collection techniques, pinning and identification. We will meet Friday, June 10th from 6-9pm and again on Saturday, June 18th from 8am to noon. Limited to 15 participants enrolled in 4-H. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

11 "Adults Only" Pan Fishing Saturday, Noon-5pm

When the fish are biting, there is no better time to cast a few lures on the Castor River. Enjoy a few hours on the Castor River as we walk the banks, cast for panfish and maybe catch a few, too! **Ages 18 and up. Registration required.**

Mudpuppies

Let's Go Camping Saturday, June 11 9am, 11am or 1pm Tuesday, June 14 9am or 11am

Camping can be fun for everyone! Join us for some camping fun as we sit in a tent, roast some marshmallows and sing around the campfire! **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45-minute program per month. **Registration required.**



16 Nature Art Nature Scrapbooking Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Bring four or five of your favorite photos showing how you've enjoyed the outdoors this summer. We'll be making a two page layout for your scrapbook to capture those outdoor memories forever. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

Tadpoles

Who Lives in this Forest? Saturday, June 18 10-11am

How many different types of creatures live in the forest? Take a walk along White Oak Trace and find out how many make their home in our forest. **Tadpoles** programs are designed for infants and toddlers ages 0-2. These are outdoor stroller walks where a child can experience nature with his/her parent or adult. **Registration required.**



18 Guided Trail Walks Saturday, 9am-2pm

Experience the many wonders and joys of the forest. Naturalist guides will lead your journey along one of the White Oak Trace trails at the nature center. You'll learn about some tree species and unique plants, listen and watch for birds and other wildlife that call the forest "home," and simply enjoy your stroll. Guided hikes leave on the hour from 9am until 2pm. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.



21-24 Outdoor Adventure Camp Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Your outdoor adventure awaits! Join us to practice outdoor skills like archery, fishing, and hiking. We will also visit local conservation areas to discover the unique habitats of Southeast Missouri. Participants are required to register for and attend all four days of camp. **Ages 7-11. Registration required.**

snappers

Hidden Forest Creatures Saturday, June 25 10-11:30am

There are plenty of natural wonders and hidden surprises within the forests of Missouri for those who take the time to look. Test your observational skills and learn about our wonderful forest wildlife through games and activities along our nature trails. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. **Registration required.**



RACERS

River Adventure Thursday, June 30 9am-Noon

Spend the morning boating on the mighty Mississippi. Our expert resource scientists will teach us about this unique ecosystem while giving us a close encounter with some life within the river. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12 – 17. **Registration required.**



July Events

Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after **July 1** for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

Newsletter Online

To receive your newsletter electronically, simply go to the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center's web page at <<http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape/>> and sign up for the *Tupelo Times* online. You will receive a follow-up email reminder that you will need to respond to in order to activate your enrollment. A **quarterly** email reminder will be sent with a link to the *Tupelo Times* online. The newsletter will look exactly the same as the mailed version but will be in .pdf format. You will be given the opportunity to unsubscribe with each email you receive. This electronic email list will not be shared with other parties.

14 Nature Center at Night Leaf Critters Thursday, 5-8pm



Venture out to the nature center and discover the many tiny but hugely beneficial creatures that lurk beneath the leaves and logs of the forest. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

14 "Adults Only" Ammo Box Making Thursday, 6-8pm

Have fun constructing your own ammo box! Build a useful and valuable addition for any outdoors enthusiast interested in preserving a little hunting heritage. Equipment provided. **Ages 18 and up. Registration required.**

snappers

Full Moon Adventure! Friday, July 15, 7pm- Saturday, July 16, 9am



Celebrate the July full moon with this fun and educational **overnight** experience! Learn to identify night sounds, stroll through the forest by the light of the moon, enjoy snacks and stories around the campfire and much more! **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. **Registration required.**

16 Conservation Trails Crane Lake Saturday, 8:30am-4:30pm

The Marble Creek Section of the Ozark Trail is found entirely within the Mark Twain National Forest. The five mile double loop trail near Crane Lake offers hiking along granite ridge tops and wooded Ozark Hollows, scenic overlooks of lakes and shut-ins, peaceful glades and thick forest. This trail rated difficult. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

21 Nature Art Flower Arranging 101 Thursday, 6:30-8pm

Learn the basic techniques of flower arranging by creating arrangements from our native Missouri wildflowers. Bring several long-stemmed cuttings and a "found" container to use in your arrangement. **Ages 16 and up. Registration required.**

22 Goin' Frogging Friday, 7pm-Midnight

Whether you call it froggin' or frog gigging, it is definitely a fun and unique way to spend a summer evening. Expect to learn the ins and outs of frog gigging and then put your knowledge in practice. **Discover Nature — Women** programs are designed to give women 14 years and older the skills and confidence to pursue a wide range of outdoor activities alone, with friends or with their families. **Ages 18 and up (age 14 and up when accompanied by an adult).** **Registration required.**



23 Guided Trail Walks Saturday, 9am-2pm

Experience the many wonders and joys of the forest. Naturalist guides will lead your journey along one of the White Oak Trace trails at the nature center. You'll learn about some tree species and unique plants, listen and watch for birds and other wildlife that call the forest "home," and simply enjoy your stroll. Guided hikes leave on the hour from 9am until 2pm. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

23 Discovery Station Managing Missouri's Forests Saturday, 1-4pm

Discover how a well-managed forest compliments all uses of forest land. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

30 Dutch Oven Drop-by Saturday, 10am-3pm

Sit around the campfire as we share cooking techniques used in Dutch oven cooking. Collect some recipes and learn the basics needed to enjoy this traditional way of cooking. **All ages. Youth and adult groups welcome.** No registration required.

30 Orienteering Treasure Hunt Saturday, 10am-Noon

Even in the modern age of GPS, a simple compass can still be a valuable and life-saving tool. Learn the basics of using a compass and then test your newfound skills to find hidden treasure! **Discover Nature - Families** programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

